# GOLDEN GAZETTE

A Monthly Newspaper for Senior Adults in the Fairfax Area

**APRIL 2006** 

Serving Seniors for 29 Years

VOL. 29, NO. 12

# Medicare Beneficiaries Urged to Be on the Lookout for Phone Scams

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) warn seniors and people with disabilities to be aware of a scheme that asks Medicare beneficiaries for money and checking account information to help them enroll in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. This scheme is called the "\$299 Ring" for the typical amount of money Medicare beneficiaries are talked into withdrawing from their checking accounts to pay for a nonexistent prescription drug plan. Consumers can report these cases to their local law enforcement agencies or call **1-877-772-3379**.

Medicare has received complaints from Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Georgia. Complaints have been made against a number of different companies, but authorities believe that the companies are the same and are typically based outside the United States. As soon as CMS receives these complaints, they are investigated and referred to federal law enforcement authorities.

Cont. p. 3

Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, April 2.
Turn Your Clocks Ahead 1 Hour!

This is an abridged version with links to senior centers and county tours. Policy prohibits publishing the ads that are included in the print version.

If you would like to receive the print version on a monthly basis, please e-mail *kathy.wilson* @fairfaxcounty.gov. It's free! Large-print and recorded formats also are available.

# Flood Cars... Floating at a Dealer Near You...

by Ellyn Kay, Investigator

Beware of flood cars if you're going to be in the market for a used car in the next several months. According to the Louisiana Automobile Dealers Association, more than 571,000 vehicles were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. Some of the largest automobile dealers were underwater in New Orleans and Mississippi. While many new and used vehicles at these dealerships were declared "salvage" or total losses, some will end up on back movie lots in Hollywood, while others will be used for safety tests. However, many of these cars will be rebuilt and disguised as ordinary used cars, with titles washed to hide the cars'soggy histories.

How does this affect you, the consumer? Many of these flood cars will turn up at local auto auctions or unscrupulous used cardealers. Some local mechanics buy cars and resell them without a title. Cars with a "for sale" sign, located on a neighborhood street, may appear to be privately owned, but in reality may be a reconditioned flood car. Other cars that would have been branded as "salvage" in Virginia may be titled in another state, which permits a lower valued car to be retitled and returned to the road. The car will then be brought into Virginia to be sold.

How do you protect yourself? Here are some clues that may help you detect a flood car.

1. Is the price too good to be true? Ask the seller for the car's title history. Did it come from an area that was hit by flooding from the hurricanes? Then compare the seller's title history to the vehicle's Carfax (www.carfax.com)

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Published by the

#### **COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA**

Department of Family Services
FAIRFAX AREA AGENCY ON AGING
12011 Government Center Parkway
Suite #708

Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

Telephone: 703-324-5411 Toll-Free: 1-866-503-0217 TTY: 703-449-1186 FAX: 703-449-8689

Web Site: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aaa. The Golden Gazette is online.

The Golden Gazette is a free, monthly newspaper dedicated to serving persons age 60 and over in Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church

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To comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act, the Golden Gazette is available in largeprint and recorded formats. Call **703-324-5633** to request an alternative format.

### **D**EADLINES

<u>ALWAYS</u> the first of the month a month in advance (for ads, ad payments, and announcements). The next deadline is May 1 for the June issue.

# ADDRESS ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Although the *Golden Gazette* accepts limited paid advertisements, reader contributions are critical to ensure continuation of the publication. We are very grateful to all of you who do send contributions, regardless of the amount (the average contribution is about \$7.00). *Please note that contributions are entirely voluntary.* 

If you have an address change, are receiving duplicates, or if you would like to make a contribution, please complete the form below and mail to: *Golden Gazette*, Area Agency on Aging, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite708, Fairfax, VA 22035-1104. Checks should be made payable to Fairfax County. Please list your current address below or attach your mailing label and check the appropriate lines. If you prefer to call about address changes, the number is 703-324-5633.

	Contribution check attached. I am NOT currently on your mailing list. Please add my name and address. I am already on your mailing list.			
	I am moving. My new address in the Fairfax area will be:			
NAME				
CURRENT ADDRESS				
	Zip:			
NEW ADDRESS (if applicable)				
	Zip:			
TELEPHONE (in case we have a question)				

The names and addresses of persons receiving the *Golden Gazette* are subject to disclosure pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, VA Code Sec. 2.1-340 thru 346.1. Inquiries or complaints concerning this policy should be directed to the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, 12011 Government Center Parkway, #708, Fairfax, VA 22035-1104.

The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging contracts with Southern Maryland Printing in Waldorf, MD, for printing and mailing services.

#### **Commission on Aging Monthly Meeting**

The Fairfax Area Commission on Aging (COA) will meet on Wednesday, April 19, 1:00 p.m., at Supervisor Bulova's office, Braddock Hall (adjacent to the Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke). A public comment period is held at the beginning of each meeting. (Note: The COA meets on the third Wednesday of each month, except August.)

Call **703-324-7746** for information or to be placed on the mailing list. If you need a sign language interpreter or any special accommodation or auxiliary aid, please call the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging at **703-324-5411** (voice) or **703-449-1186** (TTY) at least five working days in advance of the meeting. There is no charge for these services.

### Public Warned About Identity Theft E-mail Scam

Jo Anne Barnhart, Commissioner of Social Security, and Patrick O'Carroll, Jr., Inspector General of Social Security, have issued a warning about a new e-mail scam.

The agency has received several reports of an e-mail message being circulated addressed to "Dear Social Security Number and Card Owner" and purporting to be from the Social Security Administration. The message informs the reader that "someone is illegally using your Social Security number and assuming your identity." It directs the reader to a Web site designed to look like Social Security's Web site.

"I am outraged that someone would target an unsuspecting public in this manner," said Commissioner Barnhart. "I have asked the Inspector General to use all the resources at his command to find and prosecute whoever is perpetrating this fraud."

Once directed to the phony Web site, the individual is asked to confirm his/her identity with "Social Security and bank information." Specific information about the individual's credit card number, expiration date, and PIN number is then requested. "Whether on our online Web site or by phone, Social Security will never ask you for your credit card information or your PIN number," Commissioner Barnhart said.

Inspector General O'Carroll recommends people always take precautions when giving out personal information. "You should never provide your Social Security number or other personal information over the Internet or by telephone unless you are extremely confident of the source to whom you are providing the information," O'Carroll said.

To report receipt of this bogus e-mail message or other suspicious activity to Social Security's Office of Inspector General (OIG), please call the OIG Hotline at **1-800-269-0271**. (If you are deaf or hard of hearing, call the OIG TTY number at 1-866-501-2101.) A Public Fraud Reporting form is available online at OIG's Web site www.socialsecurity.gov/oig.

#### Medicare Phone Scams Cont. From p. 1

No Medicare drug plan can ask a person with Medicare for bank account or other personal information over the telephone. No beneficiary should ever provide that kind of information to a caller. They should contact their local police department if they believe someone is trying to take money or information from them illegally.

People with Medicare also should remember that they should be on the lookout for anyone trying to take advantage of them and take steps to protect themselves by remembering:

- No one can come into your home uninvited.
- No one can ask you for personal information during their marketing activities.
- Always keep all personal information, such as your Medicare number, safe, just as you would a credit card or a bank account number.
- Whenever you have a question or concern about any activity regarding Medicare, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

In addition, legitimate Medicare drug plans will not ask for payment over the telephone or the Internet. They must bill the beneficiary for the monthly premium. Typically, that amount is set up as an automatic withdrawal from the beneficiary's monthly Social Security check. Beneficiaries also may opt to pay the monthly premiums in other ways such as writing a check or setting up automatic payments from their checking accounts.

### Date Change for Grandparent Support Groups

Since the March 2006 issue (page 23) of the Golden Gazette went to press, there has been a change in the dates when the Grandparent Support Group will meet at the Pennino Building. The correct dates are Tuesdays, March 21, April 4 and 18, and May 2 and 16. The group will meet from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in rooms 206B and 234C.

Please call Robin Hamby at **703-277-2640** to register; TTY B. Pugin at 703-449-1186.

### **April 23-29 Is National Volunteer Week**

April 23-29 is National Volunteer Week and the perfect opportunity to say thank you to all the volunteers of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The number of services and the hours given to the citizens of the area we serve increase each year due to the wonderful people who choose to volunteer.

The volunteers featured here are the people who come into the office to work. Beverly, Glen, Lucy, Eldora, and Grace are the people we call when we have a project to do. They do mailings put together packets, and make phone calls. Beverly has been a volunteer in the agency since 1990; Grace since 1993, with Eldora joining her in 1997; Glen began volunteering in 2004, and Lucy began last month after her retirement from the county.

Duane, who will soon celebrate his 14th anniversary with the AAA and Disability Services Planning & Development-program, has a long history of being part of many projects throughout the years.

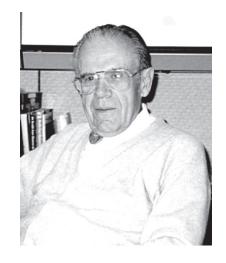
VICAP (Virginia Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program) volunteers each have a day when they staff the VICAP desk. This group has a combined 46 years of volunteering in the agency: Stan and Charlie Gorsey with 10 years, Susan with 2 years, Pat with 11 years, and Charlie Hunt with 13 years.



**Duane Stubbs** 



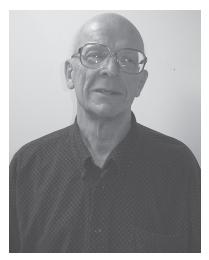
Charlie Hunt & Stan Severance



Pat Kay



Susan Starling



Norbert Michaud



### National Volunteer Week (Cont.)



Charlie Gorsey



Grace Haines & Eldora Jillson



Glen & Lucy Fletcher



Jane Kirk & Ruth Beacom



**Beverly George** 



Jill Davidson & Kathie Schleede

Jill and Kathie take care of the Fairfax Pets on Wheels program (POW). Jill became a volunteer with POW in 2000. Upon her retirement from the agency in October 2005, Kathie became a volunteer.

Jane has been with the agency since 1995. She is the coordinator for the Telephone Reassurance Program. She also is our data entry person. Ruth Beacom is the coordinator for the Friendship, Senior Program and has been an AAA volunteer since 1992.

Norbert started volunteering with the Ombudsman Program in January 2005. He maintains the database and provides administrative support.

These dedicated people combined have given 133 years of service involving 23,500 hours. Volunteers like these make it possible for the AAA, Disabilities Services Board, and the Ombudsman to serve a large number of people through a wide variety of programs.



A generous heart,kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things that renew humanity. Budda

### **Fairfax County Real Estate Tax Relief**

FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

#### **DO YOU QUALIFY?**

Gross Household Income Amount of

#### Relief

\$52,000 or less	.100%
\$52,001-\$62,000	50%
\$62,001-\$72,000	25%
Up to \$6,500 may be subtracted from	m the

total combined income calculation for each relative (other than the applicant's spouse) residing in the household.

Also, up to \$7,500 of the income of an applicant who has permanent and total disabilities may be excluded.

### Additional Requirements.

#### Seniors:

- May be exempt from all or part of the tax on a home, and up to one acre of land the home occupies, if the applicant meets the income qualifications.
- Is at least 65 years of age. Applicants who turn 65 during the year of application also may qualify for tax relief on a prorated basis.
- And owns or partially owns, and occupies, the home as of December 31 of the previous year as their sole dwelling.

### **People With Disabilities:**

- •May be exempt from all or part of the tax owed on a home, and up to one acre of land the home occupies, if the applicant meets the income qualifications and:
- Owns or partially owns the home as of December 31 of the previous year.
- And occupies the home as their sole dwelling.
- And shows either a Veterans Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Social Security Certification of Disability, or submits sworn affidavits from two doctors licensed to practice in Virginia, or military doctors, verifying permanent and total disability.
- Applicants who become permanently and totally disabled during the year of application also may qualify for tax relief on a prorated basis.

In October 2005, the Board of Supervisors increased the amount of net assets that applicants may have from \$240,000 to the state maximum of \$340,000 (not including the value of the home, its furnishings, and up to one acre of land).

It's not too late to apply! The Board of Supervisors also extended the 2005 tax relief deadline to December 31, 2006, for new applicants and for hardship cases.

You may obtain Tax Relief applications online or contact:

Department of Tax Administration (DTA)
12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 223
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594
Español 703-324-3855
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta

# Braddock District to Host Tax Relief Workshop for Seniors on April 13

Braddock District seniors are invited to attend a workshop on how to apply for real estate tax relief, hosted by Supervisor Sharon Bulova, on Thursday, April 13, at Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Personnel from the county's Department of Tax Administration will be on hand from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to help eligible seniors apply for tax relief. Attendees should bring all financial documentation related to their income and assets as of December 31, 2005 (tax return for 2005; bank statement ending December 31, 2005; current financial portfolio; proof of retirement pension, if applicable), so staff can help determine eligibility and assist in the application process.

Residents who already have been approved for tax relief for 2005 do not need to reapply for 2006. Appropriate documentation automatically will be mailed to them.

For more information, call Diane Thompson at **703-425-9300,** TTY 711.

### SENIOR CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

These programs are administered by the Department of Community & Recreation Services, with the exceptions of the City of Fairfax and the City of Falls Church senior centers and the Gum Springs Community Center. If participation accommodations are needed in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, please call 703-324-5544 or TTY 703-222-9693 at least 10 working days in advance of the event. All events are free unless otherwise noted. The symbol RR means reservations are required. These are just a few of the activities offered. Call the center nearest you for a complete listing or if you have questions.

Bailey's Bailey's Community Center 5920 Summers Lane Bailey's Crossroads, VA 22041 Phone: 703-820-2131	Tuesdays Wednesdays Wednesdays Tue. 4/18 Thur. 4/20 Fri. 4/28	10:00 a.m., Social Bridge—Looking for Players. 10:00 a.m., Chair Exercise With Mindy. 12:30 p.m., Line Dancing With TJ. \$5/8-Week Session. 10:00 a.m3:00 p.m., 2-Day AARP Driver Safety Program. \$10. (RR) 12:30 p.m., April Birthday Celebration.
City of Fairfax 4401 Sideburn Road Fairfax, VA 22030 Phone: 703-359-2487 Sat. 4/22, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Young at Heart Spaghetti Dinner. \$8 adult; \$7 senior/student; \$6 children under 10. Buy your tickets in advance and save \$1/person.	Wed. 4/5  Sat. 4/8  Wed. 4/19  Thur. 4/20  Sun. 4/23	8:00 a.m7:00 p.m., Matinee Performance of <i>Route 66</i> at Capitol Dinner Theatre in Harrisburg, PA. \$70 (includes lunch and performance). (RR) 9:00 a.m2:00 p.m., Indoor Annual Spring Flea Market. 11:00 a.m., Learn About the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. 10:10 a.m., Tee Time. Golf Outing at Burke Lake Golf Course. \$16 (for 9 holes of golf, lunch, & prizes). (RR) 2:15 p.m., <i>Sheer Madness</i> at the Kennedy Center. Tea & Cookies Served at Senior Center at 1:30 p.m. \$28. (RR)
City of Falls Church 223 Little Falls Street (Next to City Hall) Falls Church, VA 22046 Phone: 703-248-5020/5021 Note: Blood pressure checks are held the 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month, 10:00-11:30 a.m.	Mon. 4/3 Wed. 4/5 Thur. 4/6 Thur. 4/13 Fri. 4/28 Date TBA: Date TBA:	12:30-2:30 p.m., Lunch Bunch at Old Country Buffet. (RR) 10:30 a.m1:30 p.m., Spring Fling. (RR) 1:00 p.m., <i>Culture—What Makes Us Unique</i> by Letha Flippin. (RR) 10:15 a.m1:00 p.m., Burke Lake Park. 10:30 a.m., Armchair Travel: <i>Discovering England</i> . 10:00 a.m2:00 p.m., Annual Cherry Blossom Trip. (RR) 9:00 a.m3:00 p.m., Walking Tour of Warrenton. (RR)
Franconia/Springfield 6300 Beulah St. Alexandria, VA 22310 Phone: 703-924-9762  Tuesdays Wednesdays Thursdays Fridays Fridays Fri. 4/28		10:00 a.m., Looking for New Bridge Players—All Levels! 11:00 a.m., Strength Training With Anne and DJ Steve. 12:30 p.m., English as a Second Language With Terri. 10:30 a.m., Spanish Class With Pat. 12:30 p.m., Birthday Celebration.
Groveton at South County 8350 Richmond Highway Ste. 325 Alexandria, VA 22309 Phone: 703-704-6216	Wednesdays Fri. 4/7 Wed. 4/12 Wed. 4/12 Thur. 4/20	10:30 a.m., Ballet & Stretch. 12:45 p.m., Wise Use of Medication Seminar. 11:00 a.m., Computer Coaching by Appointment. 12:30 p.m., April Birthday Celebration. 10:00 a.m., Music With DJ— <i>That Oldies Place</i> .

# S E N I O R C E N T E R

Gum Springs Gum Springs Community Center 8100 Fordson Road Alexandria, VA 22306 Phone: 703-360-6088	Mondays Tuesdays Wednesdays Thursdays Fridays	10:00 a.m., Sewing and Quilting. 10:30 a.m., Ceramics. 10:30 a.m., Shopping/Bowling (Alexandria Bowling Center). 1:00 p.m., Bingo. 10:00 a.m., Low-Impact Exercise.
Herndon Senior Center 873 Grace Street Herndon, VA 20170 Phone: 703-464-6200	Saturdays Tue. 4/4 Wed. 4/5 Tue. 4/11 Fri. 4/21	1:00-3:00 p.m., Bunko Party. 12:45 p.m., CVS Presents <i>Managing Allergies</i> . 1:00 p.m., Advisory Council Meetings. Everyone Come! 10:30 a.m., Make a "Red Hat" Bag. \$2. (RR) 11:00 a.m., Spring Fling Bingo. \$1.
Hollin Hall 1500 Shenandoah Road Alexandria, VA 22308 Phone: 703-765-4573	Mon. 4/3 Tue. 4/4 Wed. 4/5 Fri. 4/21 Thur. 4/27	1:00 p.m., Spring Fling With DJ Steve. (RR) 1:00 p.m., <i>Lighthouses Across America</i> With Patti. (RR) 10:00 a.m., Trip to American University's Katzen Arts Center. \$1. (RR) 10:30 a.m., New York Memories: <i>Penn Station</i> With Robert Conley. (RR) 1:00 p.m., <i>Allergies and Other Seasonal Irritations</i> .
James Lee James Lee Community Center 2855 Annandale Road Falls Church, VA 22042 Phone: 703-534-3387	MonFri. Mondays Mondays Tuesdays Wed./Fri. Wed./Fri. Thursdays Fridays	9:00 a.m12:00 p.m., Fitness Center. 9:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., Yoga I. (RR) 12:30 p.m., Hawaiian Dance Class. (RR) 9:00 a.m12:00 p.m., Bridge. 12:30 p.m., Tai-Chi. (RR) 1:30 p.m. Tai-Chi II (RR) 10:30 a.m., Advanced Line Dancing. (RR) 12:30 p.m., Ballroom Dancing Class.
Lewinsville 1609 Great Falls Street McLean, VA 22101 Phone: 703-442-9075	Wednesdays Mon. 4/3  Thur. 4/6 Fri. 4/7 Wed. 4/12  Mon. 4/17	1:00-3:00 p.m., Need Square Dancers—Singles/Couples. 11:45 a.m., CVS Presents <i>Incontinence: Questions and Answers</i> . 10:00 a.m3:00 p.m., 2-Day AARP Driver Safety Program. \$10. Must Come Both Days. (RR) 10:30 a.m2:00 p.m., Spotlight on Diversity: Senior Showcase at Falls Church High School. 10:30 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt With Westgate and Fun and Friends Day Care.
Lincolnia 4710 North Chambliss St. Alexandria, VA 22312 Phone: 703-914-0223	Tuesdays Thursdays Tue. 4/4 Tue. 4/11 Tue. 4/11 Tue. 4/18	10:00 a.m., Square Dancing. \$. 12:00 p.m., Duplicate Bridge—Singles/Couples. \$2. 10:00 a.m., Successful Aging Strategies Program. (RR) 10:30 a.m12:00 p.m., Blood Pressure Screening. 1:00 p.m., Charles Gilbert Presents Safety and Preventing Falls. (RR) 10:30 a.m., CVS Presents Incontinence: Questions and Answers. (RR)

### HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Little River Glen 4001 Barker Court Fairfax, VA 22032 Phone: 703-503-8703  Blood Pressure Checks, 10 a.m., 2nd & 4th Fridays.	Mon. Wed. Thur. Wed. Wed. Thur.	4/3 4/5 4/6 4/12 4/19 4/20	1:00 p.m., Birthday Party With Singer Shari Marie. 1:00 p.m., Aaron & Claudia Providing a Musical Variety. 10:15 a.m1:45 p.m., Cherry Blossom Tour. Bag Lunch. \$1 Bus. (RR) 10:15 a.m1:45 p.m., Senior Showcase/Talent Show/ Lunch at Falls Church High School. (RR) 1:00 p.m., Area Agency on Aging Presents How to Deal With Emotions. 1:00 p.m., CVS Presents Incontinence: Questions and Answers. (RR).
Lorton 7722 Gunston Plaza Lorton, VA 22079 Phone: 703-550-7195	Tue. Wed. Thur. Thur. Fri. Tue. Thur. Thur.	4/4 4/5 4/6 4/20 4/21 4/25 4/27 4/28	12:30 p.m., <i>Taxes</i> by Elder Law Attorney, K.Cossa. (RR) 10:00 a.m., Cherry Blossom Tour. Picnic at Haines Point. \$. (RR) 12:30 p.m., Computer Coaching by Appointment. \$. (RR) 10:00 a.m., Travel Training Trip Using Metro Bus/Train to National Building Museum for Juried Craft Show. \$. (RR) 10:00 a.m., April Birthday Celebration. (RR) 10:00 a.m., Advisory Council White Elephant Sale/Bean Auction! Salad Potluck Lunch. Bring Salad to Share. (RR) 9:00 a.m2:00 p.m., 2-Day AARP Driver Safety Program. \$10. (RR)
Pimmit Hills 7510 Lisle Avenue Falls Church, VA 22043 Phone: 703-734-3338	Mon. Mon. Fri. Tue. Fri.	4/3 4/10 4/14 4/18 4/21	11:00 a.m., Jazzercise Class. 10:00 a.m., Ceramics. (RR) 1:00 p.m., Line Dancing Class. \$. 10:30 a.m., Bingo. \$1. 1:00 p.m., Asian Arts Class. \$2. (RR)
Sully 5690 Sully Road Centreville, VA 20124 Phone: 703-322-4475/4479	Mon. Mon. Wed. Thur. Wed. Mon.	4/3 4/3 4/3 4/5 4/13 4/19 4/24	12:30 p.m., Computer Class for Spanish Speakers. 1:00-2:00 p.m., Ballroom Dancing. \$5 for 4 Sessions. 12:30 p.m., CVS Presents <i>Managing Allergies</i> . 10:30 a.m., Chair Jazzercise With Jennifer. 10:00 a.m2:00 p.m., Party at Franconia Moose Lodge. 2:30 p.m., Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Program. 10:30 a.m12:00 p.m., Welcome Spring With DJ Steve.
Wakefield Audrey Moore RECenter 8100 Braddock Road Annandale, VA 22003 Phone: 703-321-3000	Thur. Tue. Wed. Wed. Thur.	4/6 4/11 4/12 4/12 4/13	12:45 p.m., Jazzercise Senior Style. \$5. (RR) 10:30 a.m., Learn to Speak Arabic With Araw. (RR) 10:00 a.m12:00 p.m., Computer Basics With Jerry & Ed. (RR) 12:30 p.m., Basic Internet With Conrad. (RR) 10:00 a.m., Moose Lodge Party. (RR)

### Additional Locations for Meals/Other Activities

<u>David R. Pinn Community Center</u> 10225 Zion Drive Fairfax, VA 22032

Phone: 703-250-9181

Huntington Community Center 5751 Liberty Drive Alexandria, VA 22303 Phone: 703-960-1917

# **Volunteer for the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps**

Active senior citizens are being sought to serve as volunteers in the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). MRC, one of the Fairfax County Citizen Corps programs, is an all-volunteer program comprised of medical and nonmedical professionals. The purpose is to augment the capacity of the Health Department to respond to a large-scale public health emergency, such as a bioattack or natural epidemic.

"Our goal is to have a trained volunteer force ready to help us respond to a public health emergency affecting Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church," said Gloria Addo-Ayensu, M.D., M.P.H., Health Director. Over 13,000 volunteers are needed to launch a full-scale response; however, the Health Department's interim goal is to recruit and train 6,000 volunteers. According to Donna Foster, MRC Coordinator, "We presently have over 3,300 volunteers, so we are trying very hard to grow the MRC to the 6,000 level. Active seniors comprise a tremendous pool of talent in our community. We need their help in the MRC!"

Volunteers are trained to operate a dispensing site to distribute vaccine or medications to the public in response to a biological emergency. Volunteers are needed to serve as unit leaders, incident coordinators, administrative assistants and data entry operators, nurses, physicians, pharmacists, and general site support.

Because of the nature of this emergency work, volunteers should anticipate standing for long periods; however, there are a few positions such as the data entry specialists that are sedentary.

Interested persons may register for the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps on the Web site www.fairfaxmrc.org or obtain additional information by calling the MRC staff at the Fairfax County Health Department on **703-246-2433**.

# Registration for Adventures in Learning

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna will hold an open house and registration for the spring session of *Adventures in Learning* on April 13, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Classes are held at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Classes run each Thursday from April 20 through June 15, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The fee is \$35.

Adventures in Learning offers a variety of interesting speakers and topics. Classes include tai chi; bridge; world affairs; gardening series; computers; literature (featuring Eudora Welty and Hawthorne); and a series on the mind. A brown bag lunch break provides time for socializing with new and old friends.

To enroll or learn more about Adventures in Learning, visit the Web site at www.scov.org, or call the office at 703-281-0538.

### Tour of Mason Neck's Great Marsh Trail

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host a 1-hour guided tour of the fully accessible Joseph V. Gartlan Jr. Great Marsh Trail on Saturday, April 22 at 9:00 a.m. The tour is one of many special programs and activities planned for the annual Eagle Festival at Mason Neck State Park and Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge.

Individuals with mobility impairments and family members are invited to attend the trail program. Participants are asked to meet at the trail parking lot.

A ranger will discuss the history of the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge and then invite participants to join in a tour along the ¾- mile paved path to a spectacular view of the Great Marsh. Due to parking restrictions, the tour is limited to 15 participants and their family members.

To register or for information, call **703-490-4979**. TTY 1-800-877-8339.

### Flood Cars Cont. From p. 1

- 3. Look under the carpet to see if it is wet, rusty or muddy. Check the spare tire well for rust and silt.
- 4. Does the upholstery smell of mildew? Is there a strong scent of air fresheners in the car?
- 5. Are the seat mountings or springs under the seats rusted? Is there evidence that the mounting screws have been removed? To dry out seats, they must be removed from the vehicle. Any unpainted metal in cars from New Orleans will show rust, since flood waters from Lake Ponchetrain contain salt, which is corrosive to metal.
- 6. Check for silt, mud, or rust around door panels. Inspect the engine compartment, starter motor, power-steering pump, relays, and alternator. Most flood cars exhibit electrical problems that may be difficult to remedy.
- 7. Look for signs of overspray from paint in the doors, under the hood, around window seals and lights. Also check for unpainted screws under the dashboard, shiny new bolts, and bright new trim that would indicate replacement.
- 8. Check the lights. Water marks may still be visible on the lens or reflectors.
- Look at the undercarriage. Newer vehicles should not have excessive rust or flaking metal.
   Pull seat belts all the way out to look for hidden rust or mildew from moisture.

As with any used car purchase, take the car to a reputable mechanic to be thoroughly checked out before you purchase it. If you are buying the car from a dealer, ask for a 6-month parts and labor warranty on the drive train (engine, transmission, and axles).

If you think that you have been a victim of a flood car purchase, you may file a complaint with Cable Communications and Consumer Protection at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer. You also may call the Consumer Protection Division at 703-222-8435, TTY 711.

<u>Source</u>: Our thanks to Ellyn Kay, Investigator, with the Fairfax County Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection, for another in her series of consumer issues.

# New County Online Information Resource

The Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs has launched *Fairfax County News to Use*, a new online information resource for residents, community organizations, and businesses. Located at *www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news*, the publication presents ongoing highlights of the county in one central location, including news articles, key links, photos, e-government resources, and calendars. Information about Fairfax County is now available to an expanded audience throughout the county, the state—and even the world.

Fairfax County News to Use information was previously in a subscriber-only, text-only, monthly e-mail message targeted primarily to homeowners associations for their newsletters. The new version is accessible to anyone with Internet access. The News to Use page will be updated frequently, and readers may join an e-mail list for occasional messages that will compile the latest headlines and information.

The conversion of Fairfax County News to Use to a Web publication will continue its basic purpose and content—offering practical, actionable information from Fairfax County departments and agencies—in an enhanced format that can be updated as news occurs. This format also increases access to additional resources, such as key transportation links and more parks and recreation information.

For more information about Fairfax County News to Use, contact the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 711, or publicaffairs@fairfaxcounty.gov.

#### **Burke Lake Seniors Golf Club**

- For seniors 55 and over
- Reserved tee times Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Burke Lake Golf Course
- Annual Dues \$20
- Contact Betty or Ron at 703-866-4403.

# Medicare Part D Exceptions and Prior Authorizations

The new Medicare Prescription Drug Program began on January 1, 2006. While a great many implementation issues arose in the first two months of the program, most of these problems are being solved through committed advocates, pharmacists, and physicians.

However, one issue will likely overshadow many others in the near future—the exceptions process. This process, by which Medicare beneficiaries request coverage for a drug not on their plan's formulary or request prior approval for a drug by a formulary requiring it, is set by each Medicare Part D plan. Furthermore, while each plan's process for requesting an exception or prior approval is different, one constant remains—the physician must be involved in the process for the request to be approved.

The transition period for Medicare Part D ended March 31. The plans now abide by their formularies and only issue 30-day transition fills for new enrollees in a Part D plan.

Information regarding the specific processes of requesting an exception or prior authorization from most Part D plans is not clearly stated either in the plan's Evidence of Coverage materials for enrollees or on the drug plan Web sites. The toll-free numbers for plan enrollees, providers, and pharmacists to call to obtain this data remain overloaded and hold times are still lengthy.

Because the process for requesting an exception or prior authorization from Part D plans may be time-consuming, many physicians are upset that Medicare offers no compensation to them for the time spent on these efforts. Some advocates in the area have heard of physicians requesting Medicare beneficiaries to make an appointment to discuss exceptions or prior authorization in order to bill Medicare; others have mentioned that physicians are charging beneficiaries directly for these services. We are attempting to track how often this is occurring in our geographic area.

If you encounter a physician who requires an appointment or is charging patients to help with exceptions or prior authorization, please contact the VICAP program at **703-324-5851**. We will track this data and file a report to Medicare in an attempt to try and resolve this new problem.

# You Have a Choice: Adult Day Health Care Programs

More family caregivers are making the choice to care for their loved ones at home in the community. As consumers demand more community-based long-term-care options, adult day health care (ADHC) is gaining, long over-due, recognition. ADHC programs are designed to provide a safe, fun, and therapeutic environment for frail elderly or adults with disabilities who need supervision during the day due to cognitive and/or physical impairment. They typically offer health monitoring by a registered nurse, nutritious meals, daily exercise and therapeutic activities, assistance with personal care and many opportunities for socialization. The program promotes the health, well-being and independence of the participants, enables families to keep their loved ones at home in the community, and provides much needed respite for family caregivers serving to prevent or delay premature institutionalization.

The Fairfax County Health Department operates five adult day health care centers and is planning to open its sixth center in response to a growing need for community-based long-term care for frail seniors and adults with disabilities.

As the population ages, adult day health care will play a critical role in providing a cost-effective alternative to more restrictive and expensive long-term care options, as well as provide respite for family caregivers. Such respite has been shown to sustain family stability and prevent more costly out-of-home placement.

The existing five Fairfax County Health Department ADHC centers serve approximately 120 participants daily. The centers are open for service from 7:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information on eligibility and enrollment in this program, please contact the Fairfax County Health Department at **703-246-8633**.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

One of the best ways to spend your time is to volunteer. Everyone benefits from volunteering. The agencies receive the help they need, and the volunteers receive satisfaction from helping others.

Cherry Hill Farmhouse in Falls Church needs volunteers to conduct tours and greet visitors at the historic site. Volunteers usually work one Saturday morning per month, but the time is flexible. There also are opportunities to volunteer in the barn, working with antique tools and farm implements. Training is provided. Call 703-248-5171.

**CrisisLink** is a crisis, suicide, and trauma prevention organization. Volunteers are needed to answer the hotline and respond directly to individuals. Training is provided. Call Lisa Booker at **703-527-6016**, or visit the Web site at *www.crisislink.org*.

The Meals on Wheels (MOW) program has several volunteer leadership positions available: The Eastern Fairfax Meals on Wheels (MOW) group needs a treasurer and assistant treasurer. These positions are responsible for the finances of the MOW group including a monthly report to the AAA. A treasurer is needed for the Little River Glen area. A new group coordinator is needed for the Forest Glen senior community in Centreville. Volunteers also are needed to deliver meals Monday-Friday in the following areas: Annandale, Alexandria/Manchester Lakes, Baileys Crossroads, Falls Church, Fairfax, Herndon/Reston, Little River Glen, Tyson's, and Vienna. Volunteers who speak Vietnamese are needed in Falls Church. The job involves picking up meals at specified sites between 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and delivering the meals by 1:00 p.m. Drivers may choose to deliver meals on a daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly or substitute basis. Call the Volunteer Intake Line at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186,or e-mail melanie.mitchell@fairfax county.gov.

The Fairfax Area Agency on Aging's Volunteer Home Services program needs volunteers in the Annandale, Falls Church, McLean, Reston, and Route 1 areas. Volunteers assist with a variety of services to enable clients to maintain their independence while living in their own homes. Grocery shopping, light housekeeping, minor home maintenance, transportation for medical appointments and errands are some of the services provided. Volunteers are on call and help when available. Call the Volunteer Intake Line at 703-324-5406.

The Mt. Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center needs volunteers to provide administrative support and to assist with leisure trips and recreational events. Call Gary Bolden at 703-704-6050.

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman program needs volunteer help with data entry, correspondence, filing, event-planning and reference list maintenance. Knowledge of MS Word and Excel and strong English skills are necessary. The time commitment is flexible—weekdays, 5-8 hours per week in Fairfax. Call 703-324-5434.

To have a volunteer opportunity considered for this column, please e-mail or fax your submission to **Retha Lockhart** by the first of the month one month in advance.

E-mail: retha.lockhart@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fax: 703-324-3583 Phone: 703-324-5407

### **Downsizing 101 Class**

Antiques and decorative arts appraiser/consultant, Francine Proulx, will present a class on downsizing from the viewpoint of family memories and monetary value at the McLean Community Center on May 2, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Learn how to begin, where to begin, and what your alternatives are.

Course #1998.360. \$30 McLean residents; \$35 nonresidents. Register online at www. mcleancenter.org under Adult Classes—Antiques or call **703-790-0123**.

### **Monthly Support Groups**

- \* Amputee Support Group of Northern Virginia. Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m., at the Telestar Court Building, 2990 Telestar Ct., Gemini Room, Falls Church. Contact Irvin Axelrod at 703-222-7120 or asgnva@earthlink.net.
- **★** Fibromyalgia/Arthritis Support Group. Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 1:30 p.m., at the Pohick Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Call Barbara at **703-913-0890**.
- **★ Mended Hearts Support Group.** Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m., at the Telestar Court Building, 2990 Telestar Ct., Gemini Room, Falls Church. Contact John Braddon at **703-385-9694** or *ibraddon@cox.net*.
- \* Neuropathy Organization of Northern Virginia. Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, 1:30-3:30 p.m., at 2990 Telestar Court, Falls Church. Call Mary Baldridge at 703-491-6690, or Joanne Holman at 703-998-8143.
- **\*** Northern Virginia Post-Polio Support Group. Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at the Mason Government Center, Annandale. Call **703-560-8852**.
- \* Northern Virginia Support Group of the Well Spouse Foundation (WSF). The WSF supports spousal caregivers for the chronically ill or disabled.
- The <u>evening group</u> meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the conference room at Supervisor Bulova's office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke (adjacent to the Kings Park Library). Call **703-425-2430**.
- The <u>daytime group</u> meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Call **703-691-0969**.
- **★ Parkinson's Disease Care Partners Support Group.** Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m., at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Call **703-891-0821**.

#### **Grief Support Groups**

- **★** The **Church of the Nativity**, at 6400 Nativity Lane, Burke, sponsors two grief support groups:
- 1. <u>General Bereavement Support Group</u>. Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Call Carol Mack at **703-455-2400**.
- 2. <u>Grief Support Group for Men</u>. Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m. Call **703-455-2400**, Ext **234**.
- **\*** Haven of Northern Virginia, at 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, has two groups:
- 1. <u>Widow/Widower Support Groups</u>. One group meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 2:00-3:30 p.m. The other group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- 2. A <u>Suicide Survivors' Support Group</u>. Meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m.Call **703-941-7000** or go to *www.havenofnova.org*.

#### Caregiver Support Group

\* Caregiver Support Group. Meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke. Call **703-451-8631** or *jjclement@earthlink.net*.

### **Need Healthy Adults 65 & Older**

The ARCH Lab at George Mason University, Fairfax campus, needs healthy adults 65 and older to participate in behavioral studies on memory and attention. Volunteers will be compensated \$15/hour for 2-3½ hours of testing. Call **703-993-9491** and press 1 for the Genetics Study. Please leave your name, age, and phone number.

To Add, Correct, or Delete Your Name From Our Mailing List, Call 703-324-5633.

### CAREGIVER'S CORNER

#### FREE SEMINARS FOR CAREGIVERS OF OLDER ADULTS

The Fairfax Caregiver Seminar Consortium has announced its Spring 2006 series of presentations. Registration is not required but strongly encouraged. Please call **703-324-5205**, **TTY 703-449-1186**, to register or to request reasonable ADA accommodations.

### **April Seminars**

### "Transitions—When More Help Is Needed"

Tuesday, April 4, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care Center, 1609 Great Falls Street, McLean. For directions only, 703-734-1718.

## "Understanding Communication and Behavior in Alzheimer's Disease"

Friday, April 7, 2006, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Alzheimer's Family Day Center, 2812 Old Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax For directions only, 703-204-4664

### "Financial Management 101"

Tuesday, April 11, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville

For directions only, 703-830-2223

### "Home Is No Longer an Option—Now What?"

Tuesday, April 18, 2006, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon

For directions only, 703-464-6200

### "Long-Distance Caregiving"

Wednesday, April 19, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale For directions only, 703-256-3800

# "Navigating the Legal and Medicaid Maze of Long-Term Care"

Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Lincolnia Adult Day Health Care Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St., Alexandria For directions only, 703-914-0226

### May Seminars

#### "End-of-Life Decisions"

Tuesday, May 2, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Pennino Building, Rm. 206A 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax For directions only, 703-324-5411

#### "Medicare Part D Made Easy"

Friday, May 5, 2006, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax For directions only, 703-324-4636

# "Protecting Your Loved One: Consumer Protection, Financial Abuse, Fraud"

Thursday, May 11, 2006, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly For directions only, 703-324-5401

## "Geriatric Mental Health/Medications and Alcohol Use"

Thursday, May 11, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Groveton Senior Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Suite 325, Alexandria For directions only, 703-704-6216

### "Legal and Financial Planning for Long-Term Care"

Tuesday, May 16, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax

For directions only, 703-503-8710

### "Humor for the Caregiver's Soul"

Tuesday, May 23, 2006, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss Street, Alexandria

For directions only, 703-914-0223

HEALTH INSURANCE QUESTIONS?
Call the Virginia Insurance Counseling & Assistance Program (VICAP) at

703-324-5851.

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

April 2. 4:00 p.m., <u>A Spring</u> Fling: Festive Favorites Around the World. Performance by the Annandale Brass. Ernst Community Cultural Center Forum, North Virginia Community Center, Annandale Campus. Adults \$10, seniors/teens \$7, children free. Call **703-569-0973**.

April 2. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Country-Western Dancing. Spacious wooden dance floor in a smokeand alcohol-free environment. Featured dances (line-dance, two-step, hustle, and swing) can be mastered quickly by anyone regardless of skill level. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Rd., Reston. \$5. Call 703-476-4500. www.restoncommunitycenter. com.

April 7. 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. April 8. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Annual Used Book Sale. Sponsored by the Falls Church Area American Association of University Women. More than 40,000 books, most at \$2 or less. Half-price specials on Saturday. Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church. 703-534-5345.

April 8. 7:00 p.m. Bingo Fundraising Game. Sponsored by Friends of Reston Community Center, at the Hunter's Wood Community Center, 2310 Colts Necks Rd., Reston. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Free babysitting for school-aged children. Cash prizes. \$15. 703-476-4500.

**April 10.** 2:30 p.m. <u>2006 Session of the General Assembly</u>. Guest speaker Vivian Watts,

District 39 Representative. Sponsored by the Greenspring Unit of the Fairfax County League of Women Voters. Village Square Theater at Greenspring Village. For information, call the Fairfax League at **703-658-9150**.

April 21-May 6. <u>Fiddler on The Roof</u>. Presented by The Arlington Players. Performances on Fridays/Saturdays at 8:00 p.m., and Sunday matinees on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Thomas Jefferson Theater, 125 S. Old Glebe Rd., Arlington. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and juniors. Reservations are recommended and may be made online at www.TheArlingtonPlayers.org or by calling **703-549-1063**.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

May 4. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. 6th Annual Writing Your Personal History Symposium. A day of sharing stories, values and writing experiences. This year's focus will be on using sensory perceptions to enhance the vocabulary and effectiveness of your writing. There will be a presentation about creating a family DVD. Bring a bagged lunch. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Advanced registration a must. \$5. 703-255-6360.

May 5, 6, 12, 13,19, 20. 7:30 p.m., and May 7 & 14. 2:00 p.m. (Sunday matinees). *Company*. Stephen Sondheim musical presented by the Providence Players of Fairfax. James Lee Community Center The-

ater, 2855 Annandale Rd., Falls Church. For information and tickets, call **703-425-6782**. \$10 seniors and students, \$15 adults. Call **703-425-6782**. www.providenceplayers.org.

# Boat/RV Storage at Bull Run

With local homeowner associations creating strict rules about storing recreational vehicles and other large vehicles on residential streets and driveways, area residents often have to seek out hard-to-find storage areas for their vehicles. Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville is now offering storage space for RVs, boats, trailers, and motor homes.

Convenient to all of Northern Virginia just off I-66 and Rt. 29, Bull Run Regional Park currently has space for up to 50 large vehicles. Storage is economically priced at \$42 a month for a regular space and \$61 for an oversized space to accommodate vehicles 30 feet long or longer. There is a \$5 surcharge for people living outside of Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) member jurisdictions. The six **NVRPA** member jurisdictions are the counties of Arlington. Fairfax, and Loudoun and the cities of Alexandria. Fairfax. and Falls Church.

For more information, call Bull Run at **703-631-0550**.